

**SENATE RESOLUTION 114—COM-
MENDING THE UNITED STATES
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUN-
DATION ON THE OCCASION OF
ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY FOR
CREATING PATHWAYS TO PROS-
PERITY FOR UNDERSERVED
COMMUNITIES ON THE AFRICAN
CONTINENT THROUGH COMMU-
NITY-LED DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 114

Whereas December 16, 2020, marked the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the United States African Development Foundation (referred to in this preamble as the “USADF”);

Whereas, on December 16, 1980, the President signed the African Development Foundation Act (22 U.S.C. 290h et seq.) into law, which established the USADF as an independent Federal agency with the goal to—

(1) strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between the people of the countries of Africa and the United States;

(2) support local capacity building to create community development opportunities and expand the participation of the countries of Africa in their development process; and

(3) foster the establishment and growth of indigenous development institutions that are equipped to respond to local needs;

Whereas, for 40 years, the USADF has invested in a pan-African network of local implementing partners that employ a community-led development approach to support African-designed and African-delivered solutions;

Whereas the USADF has provided more than 3,400 grassroots and community enterprise grants in more than 40 sub-Saharan African countries;

Whereas the USADF strengthens food security, empowers smallholder farmers, and creates economic growth in rural, hard-to-reach communities by investing primarily in agricultural enterprises to increase access to larger markets for those rural communities and enhance the business management skills, production, distribution, and marketing capabilities of those rural communities;

Whereas the USADF has maintained a strong emphasis on women and women entrepreneurs, and women represent up to 65 percent of the direct beneficiaries of grants from the USADF;

Whereas, on February 20, 2020, the USADF partnered with the Academy for Entrepreneurs of the Department of State under the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative to provide seed funding to graduates of the Academy for Entrepreneurs to advance the global economic empowerment of women;

Whereas the USADF prioritizes partnerships with youth and supports nearly 300 social enterprises of Young African Leaders Initiative fellows and alumni of that initiative in 37 sub-Saharan African countries by providing seed capital, technical assistance, and skills training to help young entrepreneurs create businesses that generate new jobs and incomes for thousands of young Africans;

Whereas the work of the USADF in the off-grid energy sector, which is authorized under the Electrify Africa Act of 2015 (22 U.S.C. 2293 note), has helped bring renewable energy solutions to communities with limited or no connections to national power grids and improve energy access for nearly 370,000 individuals in 15 sub-Saharan African countries;

Whereas the USADF’s model of using 100 percent African staff and implementing partners on the African continent gives the USADF the ability to work in fragile and conflict-affected areas in the Great Lakes, Horn, and Sahel regions of Africa;

Whereas the small size of the USADF and the use of local implementing partners by the USADF has allowed the USADF to be ranked as one of the most efficient providers of foreign aid by the Center for Global Development;

Whereas the partnerships of the USADF with agencies of the Federal Government, including the Department of State, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the United States Agency for International Development, along with the alignment of the USADF with the priorities of Congress, have allowed the USADF to extend the reach of critical development initiatives of the United States, such as initiatives authorized by the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9301 et seq.), the Electrify Africa Act of 2015 (22 U.S.C. 2293 note), and the African Growth and Opportunity Act and Millennium Challenge Act Modernization Act (Public Law 115-167; 132 Stat. 1276);

Whereas the partnerships between the USADF and private sector corporations and foundations, as well as African national and sub-national governments, have allowed the USADF to extend its reach and development impact in addressing food insecurity, insufficient access to energy, and unemployment through youth and women entrepreneurship and job skills training and placement in Africa, while leveraging funding to help the dollars of taxpayers in the United States go further; and

Whereas investments made by the USADF have developed and strengthened an extensive network of grassroots enterprises and social enterprises that are positively disposed to the United States and are better positioned to partner with other Federal agencies and public and private funders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the United States African Development Foundation on the occasion of its 40th anniversary for creating pathways to prosperity for underserved communities on the African continent through community-led development;

(2) recognizes that, by supporting African-led development that grows community enterprises, the United States African Development Foundation empowers individuals who are least served by existing markets or assistance programs to become a part of the growth story of Africa;

(3) recognizes that the United States African Development Foundation advances the foreign policy of the Federal Government and contributes directly to the national interests of the United States; and

(4) commits to continue to support the vital work of the United States African Development Foundation as an independent agency.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEET**

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 6 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 110, S. Res. 111, S. Res. 112, and S. Res. 113.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding en bloc?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; that the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 110 and S. Res. 111) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The resolutions (S. Res. 112 and S. Res. 113) were agreed to.

(The resolutions are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 16,
2021**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 16; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the nomination of Isabella Guzman to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration; further, that the cloture motion with respect to the Guzman nomination ripen at 12 noon; finally, that the Senate recess following the cloture vote until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. For information of the Senators, we expect three rollcall votes during Tuesday’s session of the Senate in relation to the Guzman and Tai nominations.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the

previous order, following the remarks of Senator ERNST.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, in this country we are so blessed to call home, every woman, no matter her background—like growing up on a small farm in Iowa—can be the next first.

After serving in the U.S. Army Reserves and the Iowa Army National Guard—a historically male field—I became the first female combat veteran elected to serve in the U.S. Senate. I was also the first woman to represent the great State of Iowa in Congress. Now, just 6 years later, women make up a majority of the Iowa congressional delegation. Iowa is also blessed with a fierce female Governor in Kim Reynolds and some extremely talented and strong women leaders in our State legislature. Today, there are over 140 women serving in Congress—more than ever before in U.S. history.

Because of the suffragettes and so many other determined women who stepped up and broke the barriers society placed on us, female trailblazers across this country are writing new pages in history books every single day. Women have made strides in the boardroom, on the playing field, in the military, and through elected office.

But this pandemic has been tough on women in the workforce, threatening to derail the progress we have made. Before COVID, women made up the majority of the U.S. workforce, but 1 year later, women have lost over 2 million jobs—nearly 1 million more than our male counterparts.

There are many reasons for this but two major factors. First, moms tend to be the sole caregivers in the family. With schools going remote and childcare centers closing, working moms have been forced to choose between their careers and their children.

Second, women tend to work in fields that have been hit the hardest by the pandemic, such as the hospitality industry, restaurants, education, and retail.

We absolutely need to focus on getting these women back into the workforce and on their feet so that they can support themselves and their families. The focus needs to be on three things: first, safely reopening our schools; second, expanding access to childcare, which I have worked with the Presiding Officer on—thank you very much; and producing, distributing, and administering the vaccine as quickly as possible so folks can get back to work safely.

If I were able to choose the theme for Women's History Month based off of this past year struggling through the pandemic, it would be "Overcomer." Woman to woman, we all, no matter what we do, are overcomers by nature.

Moms, you overcome so much every single day when you work tirelessly at the thankless and never-ending job of caring for your children and for your families. You have the one and only job that you cannot simply clock out of, especially this year, when many of you had to balance being a teacher for the first time in your life.

Women in the workforce, you overcome stereotypes daily and have continued to smash glass ceilings and set new standards in corporate America. Your resilience and strength alongside our historic women's rights heroes continue to shape a bright future for all young girls across this country.

In honor of Women's History Month, I challenge everyone to remember the sacrifices it took to secure the freedoms and opportunities we women enjoy today and continue to build on these opportunities for the next generation.

Whether that is in your local community or State or Federal Government, we are a better nation because of the contributions of women in all walks of life, in all fields of service, and in both Chambers of Congress, and it is important to continue to remind folks of that.

It is my hope that each and every young woman, no matter your hometown or your background, will see the opportunity and potential that lie ahead. Many of us have heard this really outdated quote: "Act like a lady, but think like a man." Well, I think history has proven that, instead, we should say: "Act like a woman, and think like a woman" because we are powerful, we are fearless, we are smart, and we are strong just the way we are.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:35 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BONNIE D. JENKINS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, VICE ANDREA L. THOMPSON, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

ANTON GEORGE HAJJAR, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2023, VICE CAROLYN L. GALLAGHER, TERM EXPIRED.

AMBER FAYE MCREYNOLDS, OF COLORADO, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2026, VICE DAVID WILLIAMS, TERM EXPIRED.

RONALD STROMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2028. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

RONALD STROMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2021, VICE ELLEN C. WILLIAMS, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate March 15, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEBRA ANNE HAALAND, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.